Twirly Flying Birds

Use a balloon to make a "bird" and see how different forces can make things fly.

Kit contains:

- 2 Balloons
- 2 Sets of eye stickers
- 2 Binder clips
- 6 Feathers
- 1 Piece of yellow paper.

You will need: tape, scissors and a permanent marker (optional).

MORTON GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
6140 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053
Youth Info Desk: 847-929-5102 | mgpl.org

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Inflate a balloon.

(2) Twist the end and clip it shut with a binder clip. (DO NOT tie it.)

(3) Decorate your bird. Tape on the feathers, add the eyes stickers, and cut out and tape on a yellow beak. If you have a Sharpie or other permanent marker, you can draw additional decorations.

(4) Hold your bird up in the air, unclip the binder clips, and watch it twirl and fly!

**Actual balloon bird flew too fast to be photographed*

(5) Repeat as many times as you like! Make a second twirly flying bird with your other balloon.

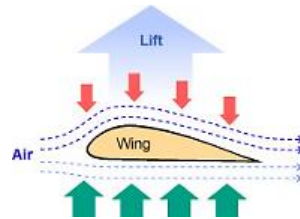
Be careful with deflated balloons; they are a choking hazard. Make sure to pick them up after you fly them around.

THINGS TO TRY

- Try flying both balloon birds at the same time. Does one go farther?
- Try putting on more or fewer feathers or putting feathers in different places. Does it change how they fly?
- Try inflating the balloons with more or less air. Does that change how your bird flies?
- Try flying your birds both outside and inside and see if there is a difference.

HOW BIRDS FLY

Real birds use two forces to achieve flight.



(1) THRUST: Birds use their muscles to flap their wings to create movement forward.

(2) LIFT: When air moves across a bird's wings, the air on the bottom has a higher pressure, which pushes the bird up.

HOW YOUR BALLOON BIRD FLIES

Your balloon bird also uses two forces to fly!

(1) THRUST: Your balloon wants to return to its original, uninflated state, so when you release the neck, the air rushes out very quickly. This creates the push needed to make the balloon move.

(2) LIFT: As the air moves quickly past the feathers, it creates even more lift.

BOOKS ABOUT BIRDS AT THE LIBRARY

- *Mama Build a Little Nest* by Jennifer Ward
- *Bird Singing, Bird Winging* by Marilyn Singer
- *Our Yard Is Full of Birds* by Ann Rockwell
- *Superlative Birds* by Leslie Bulion
- *Birds* by Pamela Dell
- *Beautiful Birds* by Jean Rousse

...and lots more!

https://leftbraincraftbrain.com/whirly-twirly-flying-birds